

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MACEDONIA CHURCH, FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.

OCTOBER 13TH AND 15TH. 1895

ELDER G. W. GRAYLEE, Moderator,	Newtonville, Ala.
ELDER J. E. COX, Clerk,	Fayette, Ala.
W. B. MELTON, Treasurer,	Fayette, Ala.
A. M. NUCKOLS, Corresponding Secretary,	Fayette, Ala.

The next session to be held with Fayette Church, Fayette, Ala.,
Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1896

FAYETTE, ALA.:
PRINTED BY R. J. SMITH.
1895.

MINUTES.

The New River Baptist Association convened with Macedonia Church, Fayette county, Ala., October 13, 1895, and, in the absence of both the appointee and alternate, Eld. J. R. Barnett—from the Sipsey Association—preached the opening sermon from 1st John 3:1—"Behold what manner of love," &c.

After eating a full meal of the good things served on the ground by the good women of the community, the delegates assembled in the house, and, on motion Eld. Frank Wilson was elected temporary chairman, who conducted the devotional exercises.

The Body was called to order, and delegates, at the request of the Moderator, placed the church epistles on the table. Brethren W. B. Melton and J. E. Cox were requested by the Moderator to read the letters, and the Clerk enrolled the names of delegates as follows:

Salem—W. C. Dawson.

Unity—Elds A. N. Reeves, J. S. Shirley, and bro. W. B. Shirley.

Shady Grove—Elder M. W. Olive.

Shepherd—Elder G. W. Gravlee.

Sipsey Valley—D. T. Savage and J. T. Sudduth.

Mt. Pleasant—Eld. G. H. White, W. F. Nichols and Thos. Welch.

Concord--W. T. Olive and J. T. Black.

Pleasant Grove—S. Stephens and T. A. Palmer.

Rocky Mount—R. B. Walters, A. M. Smith and J. F. Freeman.

Elbethel—W. F. Gilpin, W. F. Jones and J. F. Dickinson.

Fayette--Eld. J. I. McCellum, A. M. Nuckols and J. M. Stewart.

Macedonia—Eld. J. E. Cox, Simpson Lindsey and Jno. B. Kemp.

Philadelphia—Eld. J. S. Townsend, G. W. McGinnis and I. B. Deavors.

Bankston—T. C. Griffin.

Mt. Lebanon—Elder J. F. Willis and J. E. Kirkland.

Pleasant Hill—Eld. J. Hosmer, S. L. Rainey and N. H. Roberts.

Friendship—E. Jones and R. R. White.

Pilgrim Rest—Elder F. Wilson and J. H. Davis.

On permanent organization, brethren J. F. Ashcraft and Andrew Walker were requested to act as tellers, and the delegates proceeded to vote for permanent Moderator and Clerk. On the first ballot no one was elected Moderator, not having received a majority of all the votes cast, but J. E. Cox was elected Clerk, and A. M. Nuckols, Corresponding Clerk. A second ballot was cast, without the constitutional election of a Moderator; but, on motion, (Eld. G. W. Gravlee having received more votes than either of the brethren voted for) of Eld. A. N. Reeves, the regular order of business was suspended, Eld. G. W. Gravlee, having received the highest vote, was by acclama-

tion, declared the constitutionally elected Moderator, who, after a few appropriate remarks, appointed the following

COMMITTEES:

On Devotion—A. M. Nuckols, J. H. Newton, with the Pastor and Deacons of Macedonia church.

On Arrangements—Eld. J. S. Shirley, James T. Sudduth and G. W. McGinnis.

On Documents—Eld. J. S. Townsend, T. C. Griffin, W. F. Gilpin.

On Sabbath Schools—A. N. Reeves, F. Wilson and A. M. Smith.

On Nominations—J. M. Stewart, W. T. Olive and J. E. Kirkland.

On Finance—D. T. Savage, E. Jones and J. F. Freeman.

On Literature—G. H. White, J. J. Patterson and S. L. Rainey.

On Temperance—M. W. Olive, J. I. McCollum, R. R. White and W. C. Dawson.

On Location of Baptist College—Dr. W. A. Graham, W. G. Baker, A. M. Nuckols, W. D. Doughty and J. P. Dickinson.

(Brother A. M. Nuckols was, by the Moderator, added to the Board on Ministerial Education and made chairman of said Board in place of C. W. Edmonds, who has removed from our bounds)

On Education—J. I. McCollum, A. N. Reeves, A. M. Nuckols and S. Stephens.

Called for correspondents from sister Associations.

Sipsey Association: Eld. J. M. Chism, J. F. Ashcraft, Elder J. R. Barnett and brother J. T. Carter, with letter and package were received and welcomed by the Moderator.

Tuscaloosa Association: Bro. J. H. Mize, cordially welcomed.

Returned correspondence as follows:

To Sipsey—Eld. Frank Wilson, J. H. Davis, M. W. Olive and James T. Sudduth.

To the Tuscaloosa—Elds. G. H. White, M. W. Olive and G. W. McGinnis.

To Yellow Creek—J. M. Stewart, Eld. J. F. Willis, Elder J. I. McCollum and J. E. Kirkland.

To North River—Elds J. I. McCollum, J. E. Cox, J. S. Townsend.

To Harmony Grove—Elds J. S. Shirley, J. E. Cox, A. N. Reeves and W. J. Akins.

On motion, adjourned until Monday, 8:30 o'clock a. m.

SABBATH DOINGS.—The suggested Sunday School Mass Meeting at 10:30, by Elder J. S. Townsend, was greatly hindered for want of time; but the dear brother, with Profs. Sartain and Crump, and Eld. Stiff made short, but excellent speeches on the importance of Sabbath Schools. At 11 o'clock Elder J. I. McCollum was at his best, and preached an able, instructive sermon from 1st Corinthians. 16:22; "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema

Maranatha." He held hundreds of eager listeners spellbound with his timely, sweet message to the Christians, and his solemn warnings to the wicked. At the close of his sermon, a collection was taken for State, Home and Foreign Missions, amounting to \$12.19. Elder Stiff preached a fine sermon at 4 o'clock.

MONDAY, 8:30 p. m.—The delegates assembled and, in the absence of Elder G. W. Gravlee—the Moderator—Elder A. N. Reeves was called to the chair, who read the 12th chapter of Romans and the congregation joined in prayer with Elder J. S. Shirley.

The Committee on Arrangements made the following report, which was adopted, viz:

Your Committee on Arrangement make the following report: 1. Call for report of District Meetings. 2, Call for report of Mission Board. 3, Call for report of Committee on Education. 4, Call for report of Committee on Ministerial Education. 5, Call for report of Committee on Sunday Schools. 6, Call for report of Committee on Documents. 7, Call for report of Committee on Literature. 8, Call for report of Committee on Nominations. 9, Call for report of Committee on Finance. 10, Call for Report of Treasurer. 11, Appoint a Treasurer. 12, Read Corresponding Letter. 13, Miscellaneous Business.

J. S. SHIRLEY, Chm'n.

The Moderator—G. W. Gravlee—in the chair, called for reports from District Meetings, which were read and adopted as follows:

The next session of the First District will commence with Macedonia church, 4 miles south of Fayette, Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1896. *Programme*; On Friday at 11 o'clock—the opening sermon by Eld. J. W. Hosmer; W. G. Baker, alternate 1st Subject on Friday after organization: What did Jesus mean by the "Bruised Reed" and "Smoking Flax"? Matt. 12:20, &c. G. H. White and J. A. South. 2nd. What are the duties of the Pastors to Churches and the Churches to their Pastors? J. H. Newton and G. W. McGinnis. 3rd. What is the Bible design of Church discipline? J. E. Cox and J. J. Patterson. Sermon at 11 o'clock on Sunday on Missions by J. E. Cox.

W. G. BAKER, Mod'r.

J. H. NEWTON, Clerk.

SECOND DISTRICT--The District met with Unity Baptist Church of Christ, Fayette county, Ala., on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1895, and located the next session of the 2nd District to be held with Rocky Mount Baptist Church, Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1896, the introductory sermon to be preached by Elder A. N. Reeves. Subject for Saturday morning: How can we best indoctrinate the membership of our churches and develop the talent of our churches? Opened by Elder J. F. Willis. 2nd. What did the Savior mean when he said, 'Simour, Satan hath desired

to have thee that he might sift thee as wheat"? Opened by brother A. M. Nuckols. 3rd, Did Christ die for the sins of the world, or for the elect, and when did election take place with man? Opened by Elder F. Wilson,

G. W. GRAVLEE, Mod'r.

W. B. SHIRLEY, Clerk.

Called for Report of Mission Board. The members of said Board not being present, a committee, on motion, composed of J. F. Willis, W. B. Shirley and F. Wilson, was appointed by the Moderator to arrange a report some time during the session of the Body.

The following reports of committees in regular order, were read, partially discussed (for push and haste were the watch-word—which was wrong in the Lord's business—Clerk.) and adopted:

Your Committee on Literature recommend the Bible, The Alabama Baptist; the periodicals published by the Southern Baptist Convention for our Sunday Schools and for our children.

G. H. WHITE.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.—Education is a subject that should interest all our people, and we are glad to know there is quite an advancement in this direction. While the law protects us by requiring all teachers to have attained to certain qualifications, both in morals and science, we should be very careful to know the habits of life, as well as other qualifications, of those to whom we entrust the instruction of the young. All the children of the country may receive a liberal education, with the advantages the law affords, if parents and guardians will use the proper energy in this direction. To those who wish to give their children a collegiate course, we would recommend the Howard College at East Lake, for young men, and the Alabama Central at Tuscaloosa, and the Judson at Marion, for young ladies. We recommend that this Association consider the propriety of conferring with the sister Associations who are seeking our co-operation in regard to a Denominational School.

Respectfully submitted,

J. I. MCCOLLUM, Chm'n.

Pending the adoption of the above report, a motion prevailed authorizing the Moderator to appoint a committee of five, to confer with similar committees of the North River and Sipsey Associations, with a view of ascertaining the necessity and propriety of establishing a Denominational School at a central point in the bounds of the three Bodies. The committee: Dr. W. A. Graham, chairman, Prof. A. M. Nuckols, Elders W. G. Baker and J. P. Dickinson, and brother W. D. Doughty.

Report on Missions read and adopted: Your Committee on Missions report that, so far as they have learned, no missionary work has been done the past year, in the New River Association.

J. F. WILLIS, Chm'n.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.—Your committee would report, that very little has been done on this line for want of means. Those who pledged money have failed to pay what they promised, last session. Brother A. N. Reeves has received about \$18.00, which he expended at school—some two and a half months last winter.

A. M. NUCKOLS.

W. B. MELTON.

J. R. GLADDEN.

Pending the adoption of the above report, Elder G. W. Gravlee stated that, about \$12.00 had been placed in his hands for the education of brother W. M. Olive. The Body instructed brother Gravlee to turn said amount over to brother Olive, in the defraying of his expenses, in the event he attended any school as a pupil.

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT.—We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, would report as follows: There was a committee appointed at the last session of this Body, for each District of this Association, to work up an interest in Sabbath Schools and to hold a Sabbath School convention in each District, to which we refer you for information as regards Sabbath Schools in our midst.

Respectfully submitted,

A. N. REEVES, Ch'n.

On motion, the Sabbath School Committee of last year, was continued the present, and their names and programs, requested to be handed to the Clerk for publication in the present Minutes.

The regular order of business was suspended, and Eld. R. A. Baker and Col. J. H. McGuire (correspondents of the North River Association) were welcomed to seats.

On motion, the Body will adjourn at 11 a. m. to hear Elder J. F. Willis preach.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.—We, your Committee on Documents, having examined all the documents placed in our hands, beg leave to make the following report: We find reported—received by letter, 56; by baptism, 54; restored, 5; dismissed by letter, 42; excluded, 7; died, 10; total present membership, 1,194. For Foreign Missions, \$4.00; Home Missions, \$10.15; for Minutes, \$20.35; for Associational purposes \$8.25. We find only two or three Sunday Schools reported. We also find that Shepherd Church asks for the next session of this Body.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. TOWNSEND, Ch'n.

P. S.—We recommend that, as there are two Churches calling for the next session of this Body, viz: Shepherd and Fayette, that the Body decide between them.

J. S. T., Ch'n.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Your Treasurer's report is as follows:

On hand at last Association,	\$34 14
Rec'd from Committee on Finance, Minute F.,	18 80
“ “ Association Fund,	9 05
State Missions, for W. J. Akins,	6 75
Defraying expenses of delegates to Southern Baptist Convention,	1 15--\$71 79
Paid to W. J. Akins,	\$39 89
Paid to Zach Savage, printing Minutes,	18 80
Paid Zach Savage, services as Clerk,	9 05
Paid to W. B. Crumpton,	1 00 --\$68 74
Balance now on hand, \$3.15. I now ask to be discharged.	

W. F. BAKER, Treasurer.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.—Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report, that while Temperance has not, and perhaps never will, accomplish all that we could wish; and while prohibition laws have not prohibited, in many instances, as they should, yet where we contrast the present condition of our country with the past, we can but see that great good has been and is still being accomplish'd by our prohibition and local option laws. We hear some say—and members of the Church, too—that they favor a repeal of our prohibition laws, because they are violated. With the same propriety they might say they oppose the law against murder, because men continue to commit murder. The question for us is, not whether the prohibition laws are violated, but whether or not our peaceful country would be better with a grog-shop in every town and village and at every cross-roads where the whisky seller saw fit to hang out his alluring sign to tempt the poor wreck who has fallen a victim to strong drink, and who is fighting with herculean strength to repel the temptation. We need not dwell upon the ravages, wastes, crimes, devastated homes, blighted lives, crowded prisons, etc., caused by intemperance. That is admitted by all good and thoughtful men. The question which confronts us is, how best to promote the cause of temperance. We think the best way to accomplish this is, hold to all the prohibition we have, and extend it where it is not; and do all in our power as parents, as teachers, as preachers, as Churches, and as citizens, by moral suasion and education to teach the rising generation to slay strong drink as a deadly foe. Let us fight the monster in every conceivable way, and prove our sincerity by a total abstinence ourselves.

Respectfully submitted, M. W. OLIVE, Ch'n.

Brother W. B. Melton was appointed Treasurer.

Elder W. G. Baker was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist

Convention; and Elder J. P. Dickinson and Col. M. B. McCollum were appointed messengers to the State Baptist Convention.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, FAYETTE Co.,

October 14th, 1895.

To Sister Associations with whom we Correspond, the New River Association sendeth greeting:

Dear Brethren.—We are now in our twenty-fifth annual session, and we are having a harmonious and interesting meeting. We heartily welcome your messengers who are seated with us, and hope to meet you by messengers, as shown in our minutes, at your next session. May the great Head of the Church preside over your deliberations, is the prayer of your sister in Christ.

A. M. NUCKOLS, Corresponding Secretary.

The next session will be held with Fayetteville church.

The following resolutions were adopted, viz:

Resolved, That ordained Ministers in the New River Association be recognized as delegates in our Body, with three other delegates from each of our Churches.

J. M. STEWART.

Resolved, That the Clerk have as many Minutes printed as the fund will pay for, and that he have \$10 for his services; also money enough to mail Minutes to the churches.

J. I. MCCOLLUM.

Resolved, That this Body tender her most hearty thanks to Macedonia Church and vicinity for hospitality shown us during this session,

J. S. SHIRLEY.

The Moderator was authorized to appoint Standing Committees, whose names appear in these Minutes—by request of the Body.

A motion to adjourn prevailed, the parting hand was given, prayer was offered by Elder J. P. Dickinson, the benediction by Elder J. S. Shirley, and the brethren departed in peace. Harmony prevailed during the entire session.

G. W. GRAVLEE, Mod'r.

J. E. COX, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.—W. G. Baker, J. E. Cox, G. W. Gravlee, J. I. McCollum, G. H. White, Frank Wilson, J. F. Willis, M. W. Olive, J. P. Dickinson, A. N. Reeves, J. S. Shirley, J. S. Townsend, J. J. Patterson, J. W. Hosmer.

LICENSED MINISTERS—G. W. McGinnis, W. P. Jenkins, J. L. Harbin, J. Graham, T. J. Garrison, L. C. Shirley, W. M. Olive, G. W. Freeman.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing letters, shall take their seats.

ART. 2. This Association shall be known by the name of the New River Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

ART. 3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same can be reclaimed.

ART. 4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased since the last session of the Association, the state of their Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings, and the number of ordained ministers and licensed preachers, with their postoffices, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 6. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

ART. 7. Churches may be admitted into this union who petition by letter and delegates, and upon nomination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

ART. 9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the Body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

ART. 10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she

shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rise.

ART. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 13. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one only living and true God, and three persons in the God head, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity; that it disables man from keeping the law for life, and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered upon the condition of faith.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe the saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them finally fall away.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

AS FOR GOSPEL ORDER

1. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and one another, and have agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and only law giver, and that the government is with the Body, and is the privilege of each individual: and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the Christian who may be

disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and unity of the churches.

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel regularly ordained to that office.

5. We believe that none but those regularly baptized have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Association.

3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order, and shall have the right to call to order at any time, and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

6. Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Association.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any person wishing to retire, shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address one to another.

13. The names of delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. Any member violating the above rules may be reprov'd as the Association thinks proper, only on the day the offense shall have occurred.

200
100

100

100

STATISTICAL TABLE, NEW RIVER ASSOCIATION, 1895.

Churches.	Pastors.	P. O. Address.	Foreign Miss'n	Home Missions	Association F.	Minutes Fund,	Total Mem's p	Died.	Excluded,	Dismissed by L.	Restored	Rec'd by L.	Baptized,	Sabbath M't'g's
Bankston,	J. I. McCollum,	Fayette,	2 50	2 50	25	1 00	38	1	1	6	3	5	3	4
El Bethel,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,	5 00	5 00	50	1 50	63		1	3	9	3	3	1
Fayetteville,	J. I. McCollum	Fayette,			00	1 00	71		4	2		21	5	4
Jacodonia,	F. Wilson,	Fayette,	1 50	1 00	25	75	30		2	3	1		9	4
Mt. Lebanon,	J. F. Willis,	Fayette,			50	1 00	95	2	1	2	1		8	4
Mt. Pleasant,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,			50	1 00	98	1	2	3			4	1
Friendship,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,			50	1 00	109	1	2	25			6	4
Friendship,	I. L. Collins,	Ridge,			50	20	52	2	7	1			1	4
Friendship,	W. G. Baker,	Bankston,			50	25	113		5				7	
Friendship,	F. Wilson,	Fayette,			25	1 00	34	1	1					
Friendship,	J. P. Dickinson,	Hugent,			50	45	70		4				4	3
Friendship,	J. W. Hosmer,	Fayette,			60	60	70	1	1				5	4
Friendship,	A. Pennington,	Fayette,			40	60	25	1	1				4	4
Friendship,	J. S. White,	Ridge,	1 15		50	60	64		7				7	1
Friendship,	I. L. Collins,	Ridge,			50	50	87						4	4
Friendship,	A. N. Reeves,	Ballard,			50	50	52						4	4
Friendship,	No Pastor,	Newtonville,			50	1 00	76	2	3					1
Friendship,	M. W. Olive,	Bankston,			50				3					

m. Edm

30.

64
575
128
87

